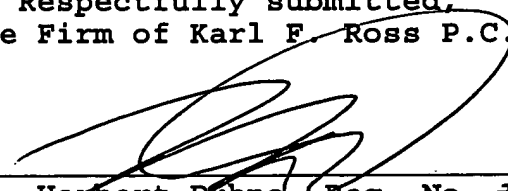


This preliminary amendment is submitted to eliminate the multiple claim dependency and to provide the cross reference of the present US phase of the PCT application PCT/GR02/00047 to the international PCT application according to Rule 78.

Respectfully submitted,
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